

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON ARTS,  
EDUCATION, TOURISM AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS, HELD AT ULSTER COUNTY COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE ON THE 16<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2008.

---

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

SUSAN ZIMET, Chairwoman  
WAYNE HARRIS, Deputy Chairman  
THOMAS "TJ" BRIGGS  
DONALD J. GREGORIUS  
MARY F. SHEELEY  
SUSAN CUMMINGS  
CATHERINE TERRIZZI

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

CLAIRE BURLINGHAM, Dean of Administration, Ulster County Community College  
ANNE CARDINALE, Director, Ulster County Office for the Aging  
LYDIA REIDY, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension  
RICK REMSNYDER, Director, Ulster County Tourism  
ULSTER COUNTY RAILROAD ADVISORY BOARD, by various persons  
JANET SALANITRI, Recorder

A quorum being present, and Chairwoman Zimet and Leg. Cummings having advised that they were attending another meeting and would be a little late, Deputy Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and recognized Lee Reidy, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Cornell Cooperative Extension:

Ms. Reidy distributed copies of Legislative Update for fall 2008 and spring 2008 as well as copies of Cooperative Extension's 2007 Annual Report. All of the handouts list most of the programs sponsored by Cooperative Extension or participated in by them. Ms. Reidy said her office also prints the Ulster Current which is printed quarterly. Ms. Reidy requested the committee members, as well as the other Legislators, to look these publications over when they are received and pass the information on to their constituents. She said one of the hardest things is trying to get this information out to the people in need of it, and that sometimes word of mouth is the best advertising.

Ms. Reidy advised that there are a lot of gardening and agricultural activities. Spring Garden Day will be held at UCCC on April 26. Also the Volunteer Recognition will be held on May 27<sup>th</sup> at

Minutes

April 16, 2008

Page 2

Stoutridge Vineyards in Marlboro. The Annual Golf Classic will be held at May 15<sup>th</sup> at Apple Greens Golf Course. Ms. Reidy said the funds realized from this event are used to fund the Volunteer Recognition event.

Cooperative Extension is still working with contract management on the contract to manage the \$600,000 grant from the NYS Office of Small Cities for the Farm Worker Housing Rehabilitation Program. The funds will be used to provide replacement housing for farm workers. The contract is currently being held up as the grantor wants us to have Professional Liability Insurance which is what contractors and architects carry. We have also contract with Jose Colon to oversee this program with a committee made up of people from the Health Department, Labor, Planning, the Legislature and somebody from Real Property. The said committee will be electing the farms who will be getting the housing. Ms. Reidy said farm labor is one of the biggest concerns of the agricultural people in the county, what with the immigration problems, etc.

Ms. Reidy thanked Leg. Mary Sheeley for acting as an evaluator for the 4-H Veterinarian Program participants' oral presentations.

Leg. Sheeley asked about the Master Gardener Program and how one attained that title. Ms. Reidy said if someone wanted to be a Master Gardener there are a lot of stringent requirements and also a fee. Trainees have to complete 120 hours of intensive training in gardening and horticulture.

In reply to a request by Leg. Gregorius, Ms. Reidy gave a brief history of Cooperative Extension, starting with its inception in 1915, and its affiliation with Cornell University. In New York State there are fifty six Cooperative Extensions. In response to Leg. Gregorius other questions, Ms. Reidy said the Board of Directors consisted of a representative of the County Legislature, a representative of Cornell University and various community members.

The report of Cornell Cooperative Extension being concluded, Deputy Chairman Harris recognized Claire Burlingham, Dean of Administration of Ulster County Community College:

Ulster County Community College:

Dean Burlingham presented a proposed Resolution setting May 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Student Lounge as the time and place for a public hearing on the 2008-09 budget of Ulster County Community College. Dean Burlingham said the evening would start at 5:30pm with a light supper, the workshop would be at 6:00pm and the public hearing at 6:30pm. Following that at 7:00pm there would be a joint meeting of this committee with the Ways & Means Committee. The regular monthly meeting of the Arts, Education, Tourism & Community Relations Committee would follow.

A motion to approve the resolution as presented was made by Leg. Briggs and seconded by Leg. Terrizzi and upon voice vote was unanimously approved by all Legislators present at this time, to wit, Legs. Harris, Briggs, Gregorius, Sheeley and Terrizzi, as follows:

"WHEREAS, a Public Hearing is required to be held concerning the proposed budget of the Ulster County Community College for the fiscal year commencing on September 1, 2008.

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature be directed to cause a legal notice of said Public Hearing to be published according to law, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that said Public Hearing is to be held on Wednesday, May 28, 2008, at 6:30 PM, Student Lounge, Vanderlyn Hall, Ulster County Community College, Stone Ridge, New York,  
and moves its adoption.

Financial Impact:  
\$300.00 – Advertising Costs"

Returning to her report, Dean Burlingham said with the passing of the state budget we did not fare as badly as we thought we would. Gov. Spitzer had wanted a \$50 per FTE cut which has not been done. However, even with the cut restored, and with no additional state funding, we are looking at an \$888,000 budget gap that we need to close. She said the college would be looking to come to the sponsor and the college has not asked the county for an increase in at least three years.

Dean Burlingham told the committee that 81% of the college's budget is for personnel and fringe benefits, and at the present time we have three units in contract negotiations. CSEA comes under the county bargaining and we have no say in that. She said our contracts with our faculty and with the administrative staff expire on August 31<sup>st</sup> and we can only use our best estimate.

The Dean said contractual costs are rising steadily and the cost of heat, light and power has risen by 62% in the last two years. We are trying to put some energy savings programs in place such as working with Johnson Controls.

In addition, said Dean Burlingham, health insurance continues to go up. She also discussed the costs associated with the state retirement system as well as with the optional retirement systems offered such as TIAA CREF.

Dean Burlingham said she felt fairly confident that we will be looking at a tuition increase. The Anticipated tuition increase is \$120 for full time and \$10.00 per credit hour for part time. The Dean said SUNY Ulster has the lowest part time rate in the state.

In reply to a question from Leg. Terrizzi, Dean Burlingham said the college had approximately 2100 FTEs. This computes at about 2500 full time students and about 3,000 part time students. She said we also serve about 13,000 non-credit students.

On the Capital Plan, the Dean said the Gymnasium is complete. The labs are almost done and they are working on the punch list. We hope to have a Certificate of Occupancy in April and plan to have classes scheduled there for the fall semester.

Leg. Harris asked about a tour and the Dean will arrange for a tour for Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm just before the budget hearing.

Returning to the budget and in response to several questions Dean Burlingham advised that there is a 3.7 cap on tuition increases and the \$888,000 shortfall includes the tuition increase. Also in reply to a question from Leg. Terrizzi, Dean Burlingham said the majority of our faculty has gone into the optional retirement system.

Leg. Gregorius asked how the college, other than going to the county, could close that budget gap. The Dean said on the income side none. We have to really start to cut.

Leg. Briggs asked about enrollment and the Dean said it is up about 2% of projected for fall and spring and she feels we will meet our budget projections.

The report of Ulster County Community College being concluded, Deputy Chairman Harris recognized Anne Cardinale, Director of Ulster County Office for the Aging.

#### Ulster County Office for the Aging:

Ms. Cardinale handed out invitations to the annual Senior Games Awards Ceremony and Lunch to be held at Ulster County Community College at 12:00noon in the Cafeteria. She also said this is Older Americans Month and two seniors will be honored in Albany in May.

She also discussed the temporary suspension of the cell phone program in view of the problems associated with analog. They had given out about 4,000 cell phones but the analog phones are no longer workable. She said as soon as they get enough digital phones they would start distributing them.

Ms. Cardinale also discussed the letter from Putnam County Office for the Aging regarding the phasing out of Styrofoam products in the county senior programs and asked the members of the committee to take it under consideration.

A general discussion was had regarding the medical van which requires replacement. She has received a \$35,000 grant through Senator Larkin. There are some questions as to whether this can be done. She will have to do this through the County Administrator. The county bid closes in May.

Ms. Cardinale submitted several conference requests. Some of them are paid for by New York State but there was one for \$317 for the Director to attend a conference. The two other people in her office that are going are paid for. Leg. Sheeley said she was not sure if these conference requests were to be approved in committee prior to going to the Chairman. The matter was the subject of much discussion and it was decided that those conference requests not involving county funds would be approved by committee and forwarded to the Chairman. The remaining request for \$317 was held in abeyance. The request to pay renewal membership in the National Family Caregivers Association was referred to the County Administrator's Office.

Ms. Cardinale discussed the 2007 voluntary contribution to the Meals on Wheels Program which amounted to \$82,285.76 and rider ship receipts of \$2,860.02. Leg. Terrizzi asked if anything was being done about the cost of gas for the volunteers. Leg. Harris said there is nothing that can be done at this time. The cost is between Prestige and the volunteers. He said no matter what, Prestige still have to deliver the wheels.

Ms. Cardinale said vendor payments for the past three months have been 98% paid within forty-five days, an improvement from 2007.

The report of Ulster County Office for the Aging being concluded, Deputy Chairman Harris recognized the presenters from the Ulster County Railroad Advisory Board.

#### Ulster County Railroad Advisory Board:

A presentation was given on the Catskill Mountain Railroad, its history and its current project involving repairing the Boiceville Trestle. This will allow expansion of rail service along the Ashokan Reservoir view-shed and establishment of service to the center of Ashokan. The cost is estimated at \$1.2 million to \$1.5 million.

The purpose of this presentation is to hopefully get a resolution from this committee to apply for a grant. Leg. Harris said he has no formal resolution. It appears this matter has already been voted upon by the Economic Development Committee. Leg. Sheeley said we could vote on supporting the concept.

Leg. Gregorius said he would like our attorney to sign off on this so that we could make sure all of the proper easements, etc. were in place. A general discussion followed. Leg. Harris said we could approve the same resolution as the Economic Development Committee had approved,

with the qualification that this matter, particularly as to how it relates to rights-of-way and easements, be reviewed and approved by the County Attorney.

A motion to approve said resolution was made by Leg. Sheeley and seconded by Leg. Briggs and upon voice vote was unanimously approved.

At 6:45pm Chairwoman Zimet and Leg. Cummings joined the meeting. The presentation of the Catskill Mountain Advisory Board being concluded, Chairman Harris recognized Deputy Chairman Wayne Harris.

Ulster County Veteran's Service Agency:

Leg. Harris reported on the meeting this date of the sub-committee formed to look into the feasibility of establishing a Veterans' Cemetery. He said there are several sites in existing cemeteries that could be utilized but we re going to check and make sure to see if anyone else is interested. He stressed that the committee is not looking at this point for a piece of land that the county owns. Leg. Harris said the veterans' groups are working well with us and we are making good progress and he may have some announcements by Memorial Day.

The report on the Veterans' Cemetery being concluded, Chairwoman Zimet spoke on behalf of the Ulster County Arts Council.

Ulster County Arts Council:

Chairwoman Zimet distributed literature on The Ulster County Cultural Services & Promotion Fund 2008 and on Parade of Sail which involves various arts organizations for the celebration of the opening of the Walkway Over the Hudson in 2009. Regarding the Promotion Fund she said Benjamin Krevolin of the Dutchess County Arts Council had met with her and with Bea Havranek, the County Attorney. She said that as a county, we do not do grants. We provide fee for services.

Chairwoman Zimet said there was a meeting in Poughkeepsie and another in Ulster County regarding Ulster County's fund as well as the J.P. Morgan Fund. There were close to fifty artists and/or arts groups present. Chairwoman Zimet said they sat for two hours learning about capacity building. There were also people there who could help with applications.

Chairwoman Zimet presented to the committee a proposed resolution authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature to execute an agreement for the maintenance of facilities for the Dutchess County Arts Council and amending the 2008 Ulster County Budget. A motion to approve said resolution as presented was made by Leg. Cummings and seconded by Leg. Gregorius and upon voice vote said resolution was unanimously approved.

As an aside, Leg. Cummings spoke on the \$25,000 for UPAC that she felt should have come through this committee and not just through Ways & Means. A brief discussion followed.

This matter being concluded, Chairwoman Zimet recognized Rick Remsnyder, Director of Ulster County Tourism.

Ulster County Tourism:

Mr. Remsnyder, on the subject of the tourism caboose, said he had discussed this with Ashley Homes and Alta Log Homes was week and they are going to come forward with finance requests. He said originally everything was going to be donated. He said if there request was more than \$10,000 they would have to go out for bid. Also in this regard, he had spoken with the County Attorney's office regarding the property. We have had a hand shake agreement with John Gill for years but if we have any kind of a permanent structure we will need more than that. Leg. Sheeley said once they build it, it is ours. Mr. Remsnyder said we did send out six to eight letters to other companies and we have not heard from anyone.

Leg. Sheeley said now there is money involved and it is a whole different ball game. Chairwoman Zimet asked if the committee really wanted to do this now that there are costs involved. Leg. Sheeley said she did not want to spend \$10,000 to replace the caboose. Mr. Remsnyder said he would advise the vendors that if they did not want to go back to the original premise we would just forget it. It is not a high priority.

Reporting on the Quadracentennial he said that after a year of talking it is at a point where events are being planned and monies are being allocated. He said there was originally \$7 million allocated in the state budget but \$3 million was cut. He also distributed some information sheets regarding the proposed celebration and the Walkway Over the Hudson.

He said the funds allocated to Ulster County Tourism is going to the Tulip Festival which he hopes will be the largest tulip festival in New York State. Lee Reidy of Cornell Cooperative said that after 911 there was a program for "Liberty Bulbs" to which there was a heavy response. Chairwoman Zimet said there could be some backlash because the county spent \$25,000 on tulips. There will be some opposition.

Mr. Remsnyder also discussed the proposed Travel Guide and distributed five or six different images to get the committee's consensus on what they think people would respond to.

The report of Ulster County Tourism being concluded, Chairwoman Zimet returned the meeting to the Ulster County Office for the Aging.

Minutes  
April 16, 2008  
Page 8

Ulster County Office for the Aging (continued):

Chairwoman Zimet said she believed the conference requests should come before this committee prior to going on to Kingston. She said the New York Connects conference should be voted on, but only the one attendee who is Director Cardinale. The other two attendees are paid for by the State. A motion was made by Leg. Harris and seconded by Leg. Cummings Briggs that the request of Office for the Aging Director Anne Cardinale to attend a conference sponsored by New York Connects at a cost of \$317.00. Chairwoman Zimet called for a voice vote, and the motion was approved on the following vote:

For the Motion: Legs. Zimet, Harris, Cummings and Gregorius

Against the Motion: Legs. Terrizzi, Sheeley and Briggs

There being no further business, Chairwoman Zimet declared the meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Janet Salanitri, Recorder



